674 The following were some of the more serious cases of theft ; clothing and money were stolen from people staying in a local hotel in the bazaar, money was stolen from a house in Rafaa and a radio and carpet was stolen from the house of a member of the American Mission. In all these cases the thieves were caught and the stolen property was recovered. In 11 other cases thefts of money, jewellery, wearing apparel, etc., were reported to the Police. In some instances persons were prosecuted for theft, but acquitted and in other cases no evidence was obtained.

Five Pakistanis were prosecuted for "bilking" shop keepers.

674 273 Fewer persons than in the previous year were convicted for contravention of liquor and drug regulations, this does not, however, indicate any decrease in the habit of drinking which among certain classes is becoming almost universal. Altogether 24 persons were prosecuted for distilling, selling and being in possession of liquor and for dealing in hashish and opium.

548 276 In one case a Palestinian was found to be in possession of 15 lbs. of opium. There is every reason to believe that an active trade in opium is carried on through Bahrain to the West. It is brought to Bahrain from Persia and India via the Trucial Coast and then conveyed on to ships in the harbour which carry it to Europe or the United States.

731 **Fires.** There were a number of serious fires during the year in which many people lost their barasti houses and their possessions. Most of the fires were caused by pressure stoves or lamps which ignited Saaf (palm branch) houses. There were no cases of arson.

The most serious fire was in the Telegraph area where 75 houses were completely destroyed together with their contents. A very strong wind fanned the fire which was only prevented from spreading over another area of barasti houses by wide roads on three sides of the site. This was one of the worst fires known in Bahrain. It appears to have been caused by an old blind man who knocked over a fire or a lamp in his house which lit the palm branch walls of the building. No lives were lost. In the village of Mahooz 55 houses were destroyed in one fire a few of these houses had mud and stone walls and matting roofs. In other fires, some of them in Manama and some in the villages, 17, 12, 15 and 14 houses were destroyed. In none of these fires was there any loss of life. In a fire in a launch, anchored off Manama, one man lost his life. More supplies of fire fighting equipment, hose pipe, etc., etc., which had been ordered in England were part of the cargo of a Strick Line ship which caught fire near Sitra and which burned for several days.

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AGENCY COURT

RESULT OF PROSECUTIONS IN 1372

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No.	Nature of Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of persons accused.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of persons acquitted.	Remarks.
1	Causing Death by Rash or Negligent Act	1	1	1	—	
2	Theft	1	1	1	—	
3	Cheating	1	1	1	—	
4	Criminal breach of trust	2	2	2	—	
5	Use of criminal force and assault	1	1	—	1	
6	Liquor drinking and possession of	6	7	6	1	
7	Charas and Opium	1	2	1	1	
8	Affray	1	3	3	—	
		14	18	15	3	

NATIONALITIES :

British	1 person
Indian	3 persons
Pakistan	2 "
Palestine	1 "
Transjordan	1 person
Iran	10 persons
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